

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Kenji ANDO et al.

Application No.: 10/784,197

Confirmation No.: 9246

Filed: February 24, 2004

Art Unit: 3761

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE AND PROCESS OF
PRODUCING THE SAME

Examiner: J. F. Stephens

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR §1.103(a)

Attention: Office of Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request for a suspension of action under *37 CFR §1.103(a)* for a period of two **(2)** months.

This case is presently under a non-final rejection issued on October 10, 2007. Applicants filed a reply on **January 10, 2008**, and a supplemental reply on **February 14, 2008**. The Examiner has yet to take action on either the January 10, 2008 reply, or the February 14, 2008 supplemental reply.

Applicants also filed an IDS on March 13, 2008. The March 13, 2008 IDS is based on a Japanese Office Action issued in a corresponding case. Applicants would like the Examiner to have sufficient time to consider the IDS, and to provide acknowledgement that the references


have been considered, before taking any further action (such as issuing a Notice of Allowance) in this case. Applicants would also like sufficient time to study the cited references in the Japanese case themselves to determine if further amendments to the present claims are needed.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the need for both applicants and the Examiner to consider the references filed with the IDS on March 13, 2008 provides good and sufficient cause for a suspension of action for two (2) months in this case.

The required fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(g) is herewith included. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: MAR 17 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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